

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence

FY 2004 Legislative Update



AGR Regional Meeting Georgia

U.S. AIR FORCE

**Col Joe Webster
HQ USAF/REI
25 August 2003**



U.S. AIR FORCE

The Reserve Family

Strong, Viable Reserve

Family Reservist Employer





Congressional Support for the AF

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■ **Combat Capability**

■ **AF Leadership**

■ **Legislation**

■ **Funding**

■ **Public Support**

■ **Entire Congress**

■ **Key Committees**

■ **Caucuses/Individual members**



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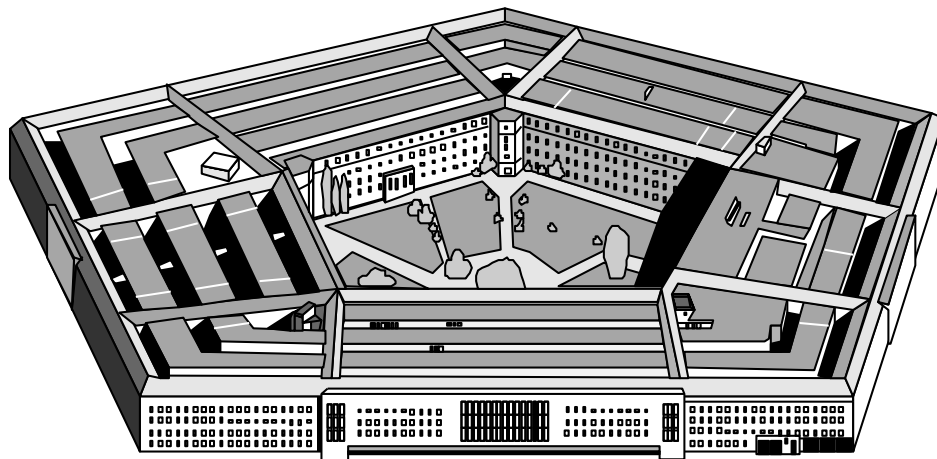
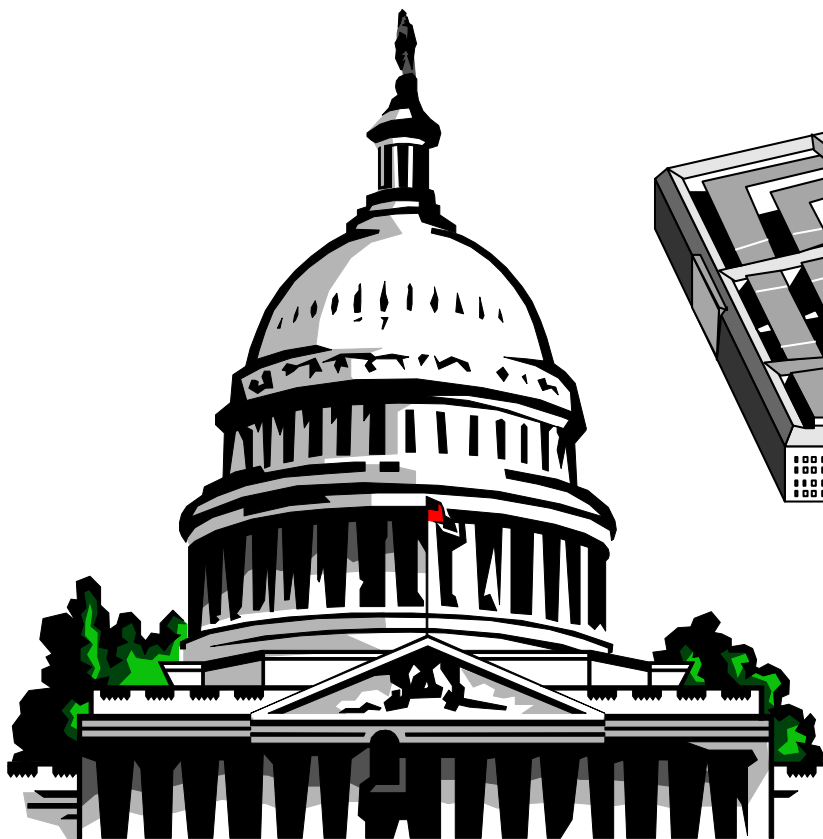
Overview

- **REI Mission**
- **AFRC/CC Messages**
- **FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Bills**
- **Non-Regular (Reserve) Retirement Bills**
- **The Way Ahead - Future Initiatives**



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HQ USAF/REI Policy Integration Directorate



As of:

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Issue/Initiative Deployment

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- **Develop and prioritize issues and initiatives**
 - **Unified Legislation Budgeting/Omnibus**
 - **Posture Team**
- **Justify Resources**
- **Interaction with Congress, DoD, Air Staff, field, associations, family, retirees, and employers**



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Review the Bidding

Chief AFR Strategy

- Chairmen
 - Top Row
 - Members with AFR units
 - Members with issues
- Leadership

Deputy RE, REI

- PSMs HASC, SASC, SAC(D), HAC(D)
- Milcon

Wing Commanders

- Targeted DC visits + district work

Staff-to-Staff visits

- All Members who “own” a Reserve installation



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Improve/Maintain Congressional Relations

■ Personnel Interaction

- Courtesy visits and relationship building
- Congressional Outreach
- Association Interface

■ Timely, Accurate, Consistent Data

- Congressional Inquiries
- High Level Correspondence

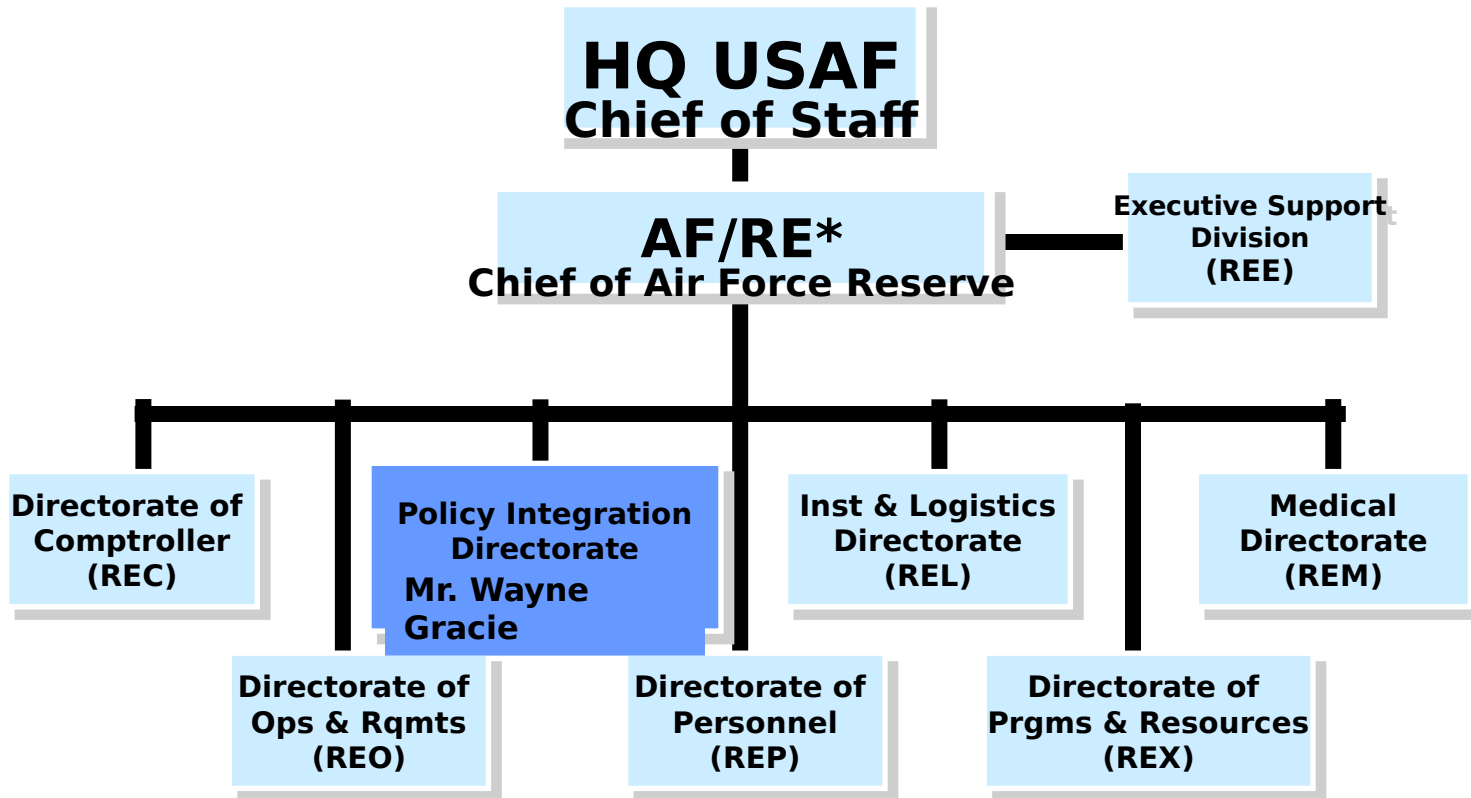
■ Education

- Commanders' and Command Chiefs' Orientation
- REI Bulletin Monthly Newsletter
- Military Legislative Assistant (MLA) Grams



Office of Air Force Reserve

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** Dual hatted as HQ USAF/RE and HQ AFRC/CC*



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AFRC/CC Messages



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Summation of Reasons for AFRC Success

■ People

- **Prior Service Experience**
- **Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program**
- **Management of Reservists by Reservists**
- **Family/Civilian Employer/Civic/Congressional Support**

■ Readiness

- **One Tier of Readiness in Air Force**
- **Readiness Standards Measured by Active Force**
- **Train and Deploy with Active Force**

■ Modernization

- **Comparable/Interoperable Weapon Systems**
- **Combat Forces Remaining relevant**



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People Challenges

- **Recruiting and Retention**
 - **Impact of STOP LOSS**
 - **Prior Service Member Availability**
 - **Impact of Mobilizations**
 - **Recruiting Non-Prior Service Personnel**
 - **Recruiting of Active Duty Retirees**
 - **Pay/Entitlements/Benefits**
 - **Volunteerism**
 - **Family, Employer and Community Support**
 - **The Economy**



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Readiness Challenges

- **One Tier of Readiness Vice Tiered Readiness**
- **Accessibility-Reality Vice Perception**
- **Use of Reserve Members to Fill Needed Skills**
- **Combat Ready vice Strategic Reserve Status**
- **Rising Cost of O&M with an Aging Fleet**
- **Continued Modifications of Equipment**
 - **Insure Interoperability**
 - **Relevant to Combatant CC Requirements**
- **Military Construction (MILCON) Funding Needs**
- **Potential loss of National Guard and Reserve Equipment funding (NGREA)**



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Transformational/Modernization Challenges

- **Impact of Force Structure Decisions**
 - **C-5 AMP/RERP Decisions**
 - **C-130J, F/A-22 , JSF and Tanker lease Decisions**
 - **Impact of Potential Rebalancing Decisions**
 - **Stand-Up of of Fighter Associate Units in FY04**
 - **Utilization of Reserve Members in AOC, Global Hawk, UCAV and Future Space Operations Missions**
 - **Funding for Expansion of IMA and Full-Time Positions**
 - **Security Improvements Essential for Bases/Units**
 - **Defining and Articulating the Differences between USAF Reserve Components and those of Other Services**
 - **Impact of AF/AFRC BRAC Decisions**
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Base Realignment & Closure

- **BRAC Restrictions**
 - **Know The rules**
 - **Do Not Allow Civic Meetings on BRAC Plans To Be Held On Base**
 - **You Can Attend Off Base Meetings**
 - **Do Not Make Statements of Commitment for DOD**



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FY04 National Defense Authorization Actions





Tanker Aircraft Retirement

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The Air Force plans to retire 68 KC-135 aircraft between FY2004 and FY2006 because of the continuing, rising cost of maintenance

- - 44 A/C in FY2004, - 16 A/C in FY2005, - 8 A/C in FY2006

House (section 131)

- Establishes account to prepare for lease or purchase rather than retirement of 135s

Senate (section 367)

- Restricts the AF from retiring more than 12 KC-135 aircraft in FY 2004

Conference

Status



Simplification of Annual Participation of Ready Reserve

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Typically, reservists are required to perform the equivalent of 38 training days in the form of 48 periods of inactive duty for training (traditionally, four periods over a weekend) and 14 days of AT.

- **At least 32 other categories of duty status.**

House (section 523)

- **Restates the annual training requirement as 38 days per year**

Senate

- **Not addressed**

Conference

Status



Military Pay Raise

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The PB recommends a range of military pay increases from 2% up to 6.5%, targeted by rank and years of experience. Differential pay increases enhance DOD's ability to retain its most experienced personnel.

House (section 601)

- Across the board 3.7%
- Targeted raise for mid-career
- Average 4.1%

Senate (section 601)

- Across the board 3.7%
- Targeted raise for mid-career
- Average 4.15%

Conference

Status



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Annual Pay Adjustment Process

Current law requires an annual adjustment of basic pay for military members at 0.5% above the Employment Cost Index (ECI) through 2006 (otherwise equals the increase of GS civilian employees)

House

- **Not addressed**

Senate (section 602)

- **Requires annual adjustment to equal the ECI (after 2006) in lieu of current ECI - 0.5%**

Conference

Status



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Hostile Fire and Imminent Danger Pay for IDTs

Currently, reservists serving on IDT are not authorized to receive hostile fire pay and imminent danger pay (HFP/IDP)

House (section 616)

- **Authorizes reservists on IDT status to receive HFP/IDP**

Senate (section 620)

- **Authorizes reservists on IDT status to receive HFP/IDP (effective 11 Sep 01)**

Conference

Status



Reimbursement for Lodging Expenses While TDY

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Payment of lodging per diem is not authorized for reservists on Temporary Duty (TDY) during periods of leave or a return to Place From Which Called (Or Ordered) To Active Duty (PLEAD)

House (section 633)

- **Authorizes reservists/retirees the lodging cost for periods of leave**

Senate

- **Not addressed**

Conference

Status



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Use of Commissaries by Reservists

Current law authorizes reservists up to 24 visits to the commissary each year for RC members with at least 50 points and gray area retirees and based on participation for members without 50 points

House (section 651)

- **Auth reservists and retirees use of commissaries on same basis as active duty and dependents**

Senate (section 369)

- **Elim the annual limitation on use of commissaries by reservists with at least 50 pts and retirees**

Conference

Status



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Base Realignments and Closures

Under current law, the SecDef must submit a force structure plan and description of necessary supporting infrastructure with the FY05 budget request

House (section 2842)

- **Requires SecDef to submit a force structure plan that assumes, at a minimum, the 1991 Base Force Plan. Also, assume no US forces are permanently based outside of United States**

Senate

- **Not addressed**

Conference

Status



Retirement Bills

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■ Reserve Retirement

Bill	Sponso r	Co-S	Description and Last Action
HR33 1	Wilson	20	Immediate annuity; Introduced 1/8/03
HR74 2	Saxton	124	Lower retirement age to 55; Introduced 2/12/03
S445	Landrieu	1	Retirement buydown; Introduced 2/25/03
S103 5	Corzine	6	Reserve Retirement at age 55; Introduced 5/9/03



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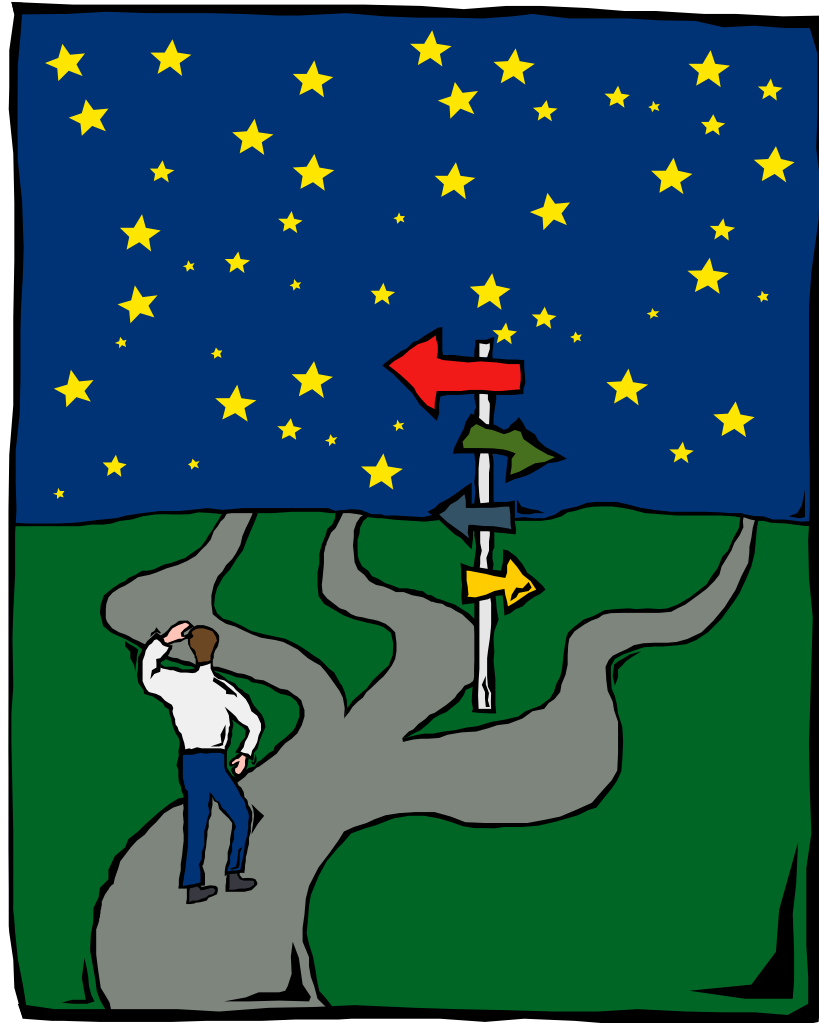
Other Congressional Issues

- **Consolidation of Military Personnel Accounts**
- **The Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act**
- **Rebalancing Forces**
- **Military Construction**
- **National Guard & Reserve Equipment**



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The Way Ahead... Future Initiatives





Future Initiatives

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- **Pay Raise - ECI -0.5% / =ECI / ECI +0.5%**
- **IDT points Creditable Towards Retirement**
- **1/30th Rule, e.g. ACIP, CEFIP, HDIP, FLPP**
- **Eliminate BAH-II**
- **BAH for RC Without Dependents**
- **Reenlistment Bonus Past 20 Years**
- **Payment of Lodging Expenses During Contingency Operations (HASC)**
- **Medical/Dental Coverage**
- **Income Protection**



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Summary

- **FY 2004 legislation is potentially very favorable to reservists and their family members**
- **Several issues to be worked in the future**
- **Legislation is a dynamic process with numerous key players**
 - **To ensure the Congress is informed of Reserve Component capabilities and accomplishments**
- **REI is available:**
 - **DSN 223-2452, 703-693-2452**
 - **www.re.hq.af.mil/rei**



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Questions?



AIR FORCE RESERVE

ABOVE & BEYOND

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